FBIS-SAS-87-069
Friday
10 April 1987
Vol VIII No 069

Daily Report

SOUTH ASIA

SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
PRINTED INSIDE COVER

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 APRIL 1987

Iran-Iraq War

Iran liberated "vast" parts of Iranian territory, including the 'Baba Hadi' border outpost, in a new offensive codenamed "Karbala'-9," IRNA announced. Iranian forces defeated seven "heavy" Iraqi counteroffensives in the "Karbala'-9" operational region, the agency pointed out, adding that Iranian troops are "holding the upper hand."

In the "Karbala'-8" area, Iran "smashed" a heavy Iraqi counterattack and downed four more aircraft, including an Su-22 whose pilot was captured, IRNA reported. Iranian aircraft made further bombing raids on Iraqi positions in the region on 10 April, Tehran radio announced citing a military communique. More than 8,300 Iraqis have been killed or wounded since the beginning of the "Karbala'-8" operation, the radio added

According to INA, however, Iraq confronted an Iranian assault on 9 April, killing or wounding no less that 7,000 Iranians. The agency claimed Iranian forces began a "disorderly, confused retreat." In a statement carried by INA, the Iraqi military spokesman said Iraq shot down an Iranian Phantom aircraft, a Cobra helicopter, and two drones. The spokesman denied Iranian claims of shooting down several Iraqi aircraft and two helicopters, the agency noted. Regarding Iraq's claim it had repulsed an attack on Al-'Amiq port, an Iranian military spokesman denied any such an attack was made, Tehran radio reported.

Egypt

Election Results — Final election results gave three parties representation in the People's Assembly, Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr announced in a statement carried by Cairo radio. The National Democratic Party came away with 308 seats, the Socialist Labor Party with 56, and the Neo-Wafd with 36. Badr said 39 individual candidates won seats, and voting will be repeated in the remaining 9 constituencies on 13 April.

Before announcing the results, Badr noted that there were "extremely complicated challenges regarding security" during the actual election process because of intense competition, mounting tension, and "the prevalence of a fanatical spirit." According to the minister, "the important incidents were confined to some chaotic acts and attacks in limited areas."

Ethiopian Visitor — Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam arrived for a visit on 9 April, MENA reported.

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — Israeli helicopters attacked "terrorist" targets south of Sidon on 9 April, hitting three buildings on the outskirts of the 'Ayn al-Hulwa refugee camp, IDF radio announced. Although the radio said all the helicopters returned to their base safely, Beirut radio and Voice of Lebanon radio cited unconfirmed reports that one craft was shot down. Israeli aircraft also made several sorties over Beirut and the mountain on 10 April, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Hostages — Diplomatic reports from Beirut cited by a Kuwaiti newspaper indicate the "maturity" of an initiative to gain the release of four American University of Beirut professors reportedly being held by a Hizballah group led by Al-Haj Husayn Khalil. The paper said expectations are based on the 9 April departure of Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah for talks in Damascus which will reportedly concentrate on working out a plan to release the four captives.

"The Oppressed on Earth" organization has threatened to execute a Jewish hostage abducted in Beirut, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. In a statement delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut, the group said it would carry out the threat if Israel continues its actions against what it called the Oppressed in Southern Lebanon, the radio continued.

Camps, Security Situation — Ambulances evacuated 41 wounded persons from the Burj al-Barajinah camp under the supervision of Syrian observers and Amal and PNSF representatives, Beirut Voice of National Resistance radio announced. In the southern suburb, tension rose as intermittent clashes became more severe and a cease-fire declared by the security committee failed to stop the fighting, Beirut radio reported.

Palestinian Talks

Yasir 'Arafat and PFLP Secretary General George Habash will cochair the preparatory meeting before the PNC session, according to press reports cited by the the Qatari news agency QNA. Fatah's Khalil al-Wazir said the agreement was reached during a working session with the PFLP delegation, the agency noted. The PLO office in Algiers had earlier denied reports that the preparatory meeting had been postponed, Algiers radio reported.

The PFLP-GC secretary general announced that the front would not attend the Algiers meeting, Paris Radio Monte Carlo disclosed.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denounced the notion of an international conference and its champion, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in a speech "unprecedented in its harshness," Jerusalem television reported. Shamir called the idea "national suicide" and "insane," the television added. He called on Peres to drop the the idea of a conference, which might "wreak a catastrophe on Israel," Jerusalem radio noted. Peres responded to Shamir's remarks, branding them "destructive," IDF radio said.

The foreign minister returned from his meetings with Soviet representatives on 9 April, calling his first contacts with the Soviets "important and direct," IDF radio noted. According to sources close to Peres cited by *The Jerusalem Post*, the USSR has moved closer to the Israeli view of an international conference as a context for direct negotiations between the parties. The paper said Soviet officials showed an "unprecedented readiness" to discuss Kremlin attitudes toward Jewish emigration during the meetings. Peres also noted the Soviet side spoke directly about the need to improve relations with Israel, the paper disclosed.

Chadian Conflict

Libyan aircraft bombed Zouar, Erdi, and Ouadi Doum on 8 April, Ndjamena radio reported.

Western Sahara

Saharan fighters killed 157 Moroccan soldiers, including 2 officers, in a large-scale operation, Algiers radio announced. The Saharan troops occupied part of the defense wall and pursued Moroccan soldiers 15 km into the Moroccan side, the radio noted, adding that a Moroccan counteroffensive was defeated.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

South Asia

CONTENTS

Vol VIII No 069 *10 April 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

BANGLADESH

Opposition Demonstrates Against Food Price Rises *[AFP]* ..... D 1
Joint Economic Talks With Pakistan Conclude ..... D 1

INDIA

Defense Ministry Issues Annual Report ..... E 1
Continued Modernization Urged ..... E 1
Pakistan, PRC 'Threats' *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Sri Lanka Envoy Conveys Jayewardene Message to Gandhi ..... E 1
AFP: Communists Rally Against Gandhi Government ..... E 2
Delhi Notes Rally ..... E 2
Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Kamentsev ..... E 2
Pays Courtesy Call on Gandhi ..... E 2
Tiwari Banquet Speech ..... E 2
Committee To Investigate Commissions on Arms Deals ..... E 2
3 Killed in West Bengal Political Clashes ..... E 2
India Will Not Compromise Nonalignment for U.S. Aid ..... E 3

PAKISTAN

8 Killed, 40 Injured in Rawalpindi blast 9 Apr ..... F 1
Junejo Condemns Blast ..... F 1
India Must Respond to Proposals on Arms Race ..... F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Security Minister Announces Holiday Cease-Fire ..... G 1
Diplomatic Relations With Venezuela Established ..... G 1
Briefs: Drugs Arrests, Laws ..... G 1

IRAN

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons ..... I 1
Foreign Minister Addresses Disarmament Conference ..... I 1
Musavi Briefs Envoy to Libya on Assignment ..... I 2
Further Reportage on Visit of Ghanaian Minister ..... I 2
Joint Communique Issued ..... I 2
IRGC Minister Comments on Future Dispatch of Troops ..... I 3
3 Battalions Depart for Fronts ..... I 3
IRGC Commander Interviewed on 'Karbala'-8' Success ..... I 3
IRGC Officer Claims Iraqi Forces 'Badly Beaten' ..... I 3
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 3
'Vast' Territory Retaken ..... I 3
Iraqis 'Smashed' on Western Front ..... I 4
Iraqis 'Crushed' Near Basra ..... I 4
Iraqi Sukhoy-22 Downed ..... I 4
Communique No 2,801 ..... I 4
Fighters Bomb Iraqi Positions ..... I 4

Communique on 'Karbala'-9' ..... I 4
3 More Iraqi Planes Downed ..... I 5
Iraqi Losses Total 8,300 ..... I 5
Khorramshahr 'Chemically Bombed' ..... I 5
Iraqi Warplanes 'Forced To Flee' ..... I 5
Iraqi Bases Near Basra Bombed ..... I 5

Opposition Demonstrates Against Food Price Rises

BK091548 Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Dhaka, April 9 (AFP) — Two leading opposition parties demonstrated Thursday against rising food prices and called on the government to resign over what they said was a "grave crisis".

The demonstrations by the Bangladesh National Party (BNP) and the Jamiat-i Islami party ended peacefully as riot police kept close watch, witnesses said.

The price of basic food such as rice and wheat have risen since March leading to opposition demands that the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad should resign.

President Ershad held emergency meetings over the weekend with cabinet ministers and food officials. The government said that the price rises were normal coming before harvest time.

The government announced measures to speed up supply and distribution of foodgrains by government stores in Dhaka and other cities.

The BNP led by Begum Khaleda Zia, a staunch opponent of Mr Ershad, blames him for the price rises.

The fundamentalist Jamiat-i Islami Party held its rally and processing behind the capital's Baitul Mukarram Mosque and protested the "abnormal rise" in the price of essentials like rice.

Jamiat leader Abbas Ali Khan said the government had failed to tackle the food crisis and urged people "to intensify the movement for bringing about the downfall of the government."

Another major opposition party, the Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed plans to hold similar protest meetings against rising food prices in Dhaka and other places on Sunday.

Newspapers quoted BNP leader Begum Zia, widow of assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, as saying at a public meeting Wednesday that the nation was facing a "grave crisis" and that the only way out is to force the "autocratic government" to resign.

She earlier described the food situation as alarming and said that people were living "amidst starvation" in several parts of the country.

Joint Economic Talks With Pakistan Conclude

BK071558 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Pakistan is to make an immediate shipment of 50,000 tons of rice to Bangladesh under the special trading arrangement. This was decided during the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Commission meeting in Dhaka. The 3-day meeting ended today. The agreed minutes of the talks were also signed. The commerce minister, M.A. Munim, and the visiting Pakistan minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto signed the minutes.

Pakistan agreed to examine the proposal for a long-term arrangement for import of jute from Bangladesh. Pakistan will also take effective steps to increase import of tea. Bangladesh reiterated its earlier agreement to purchase 50,000 bales of raw cotton from Pakistan.

Both the countries agreed to encourage joint ventures in medium and large-scale industrial sectors. Joint ventures will be undertaken in the fields of surgical goods, fiberglass, [words indistinct] and sports goods. Pakistan also agreed to examine the possibility of importing telecommunication cables from Bangladesh. The two sides agreed to hold [words indistinct] exhibitions in each other's country for creating awareness of their export potential.

The finance and economic affairs minister of Pakistan, Mr Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto, left Dhaka today for Bangkok.

Defense Ministry Issues Annual Report

BK091622 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] India has expressed concern over the United States' willingness to supply sophisticated airborne early warning systems to Pakistan. The Defense Ministry's annual report says this will greatly increase the threat to India's security while having a minimal impact on dealing with alleged air intrusions from Afghanistan.

The report further says: It is now almost certain that Pakistan is on the brink of acquiring nuclear weapons capability. This assessment is based on public evidence, including disclosures made recently by the leading Pakistan nuclear scientist, Dr Abdul Qadir Khan. This development has most serious consequences for India's security.

The report says the situation has been further compounded by Pakistan continuing acquisition of weaponry beyond the security needs.

The report also underlines that India remains committed to improving and normalizing relations with Pakistan on the basis of the Simla agreement.

The report notes that China is improving the quality of its Armed Forces. This development and the likelihood of more sophisticated Chinese weapons being given to Pakistan need to be taken into account in the country's defense planning.

Referring to China's intrusion into Sumdorong Chu Valley and its protest over the grant of statehood to Arunachal Pradesh, the report says these cause strains to bilateral relations.

Continued Modernization Urged

BK100322 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Excerpt] India is to continue large scale modernization of the Armed Forces and induction of sophisticated weapons to meet any threat to the nation's territorial integrity. The Defense Ministry annual report says the acquisition of large-scale arms packages by Pakistan and its nuclear weapons program have the most serious consequences for the nation's security. Nevertheless, India remains committed to normalizing and improving bilateral relations with Islamabad. [passage omitted]

Pakistan, PRC 'Threats'

BK091600 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 9 (AFP) — India expressed concern at perceived military threats from Pakistan and China in the Defence Ministry's annual report laid in Parliament here Thursday.

"It is now almost certain" that Pakistan is on the verge of nuclear weapons capability after acquiring advanced weaponry from the United States and China, the report presented in the Lower House said.

This and a reported U.S. decision to give Islamabad advanced Airborne Warning And Control Systems would have serious consequences for India's security as they would have the effect of a "force multiplier," it said.

U.S. and Pakistani explanations that arms supplies were needed to combat feared threats from Afghanistan were dismissed by the report, which said Islamabad's massive armament programme is "plainly intended for use against India." India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from colonial ruler Britain in 1947.

The Defence Ministry's report noted that China was improving the quality of its Armed Forces and that there was "very likelihood" that Beijing would supply more sophisticated arms to Islamabad. Such possibilities would have to be given serious consideration in the country's defence planning.

India increased defence spending during the year beginning April 1 to more than 10 billion dollars — a fifth of the total budget commitment — following tensions on the border with Pakistan.

India last year charged China, against whom it fought a brief but bloody border war in 1962, with troop incursions into territories they both claim. An alleged Chinese intrusion into disputed Arunachal Pradesh in India's northeast had forced New Delhi to take "strong defensive measures" along the border with China, the report said but did not specify what they were.

The report also spoke of the "disturbing" presence of several "extra-regional" powers in Sri Lanka allegedly at Colombo's invitation. It was seen as a reference to recent reports that U.S. and British mercenaries were involved in the fight against Tamil separatist guerrillas in the island's north and east, and that Isreal and Pakistan had trained security forces. "The present activities in the island and the region adversely affects India's security environment," the report said.

It expressed concern at the presence in the Indian Ocean of foreign naval forces and alleged that "extra-regional" powers were striving for military bases in the region to support friendly and displace unfriendly governments of littoral states.

Sri Lanka Envoy Conveys Jayewardene Message to Gandhi

BK091638 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The high commissioner of Sri Lanka, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, met the prime minister in New Delhi today. He conveyed to Mr Rajiv Gandhi a message from President Jayewardene regarding a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

An official spokesman said the contents of the message are being studied.

AFP: Communists Rally Against Gandhi Government

BK091608 Hong Kong AFP in English 1602 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 9 (AFP) — Thousands of communists rallied in a show of strength here Thursday as party leaders called for a united opposition front against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government.

"If we are serious, we should have a programme for opposition unity," West Bengal State's Marxist Chief Minister Jyoti Basu told some 20,000 workers of his Communist Party of India (Marxist) at a sprawling ground in Old Delhi. Mr Basu, a senior leader of the CPI (M), India's largest leftist party, was last month re-elected chief minister of the eastern state for a third five year term. The 73-year-old veteran politician called Mr Gandhi a "liar" and said his Congress (I) Party needed to be fought and defeated across the country.

It was the Marxists' biggest rally in the Indian capital and followed their electoral success against the Congress (I) in West Bengal and the south-western state of Kerala. The party also administers a third state — north-eastern Tripura bordering Bangladesh.

Tripura Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty alleged that the Congress (I) was backing the outlawed Tribal National Volunteers (TNV), which is campaigning for an independent homeland in his state. The TNV has killed about 20 people in hit-and-run attacks this year. Nearly 110 died in Tripura in 1986.

The CPI (M), the biggest communist party in South Asia, was formed in 1964 and is recognised by both Moscow and Beijing.

Delhi Notes Rally

BK091636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The Communist Party of India-Marxist today held a public meeting in New Delhi. The meeting was addressed by the chief minister of West Bengal, Mr Jyoti Basu; Mr E.K. Nayanar of Kerala and Mr Nripen Chakraborty of Tripura; the general secretary of the party, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad; and the members of the Politburo, Mr Harkishen Singh Surjeet.

The speakers said the victory of the Left Front in these two states is a verdict in favor of forces of forces of secularism and the policies aimed at the welfare of the poor and the downtrodden. The three chief ministers also spelt out the various welfare measures and other schemes undertaken by their governments.

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Kamentsev

Pays Courtesy Call on Gandhi

BK091644 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The visiting Soviet deputy prime minister, Mr V. M. Kamentsev, met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. An official spokesman described the meeting as a courtesy call. Mr Kamentsev expressed his country's desire to step up bilateral economic cooperation as envisaged by the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and Mr Gandhi in November last.

Earlier, the official delegations of the two countries held wide-ranging talks. The two sides have agreed on a long term program in the field of production coopration and machine building. The items identified for exploration under the program include machine tools, coal mining and power generation equipment, and industrial machinery.

Tiwari Banquet Speech

BK100349 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Tiwari, has said that the cornerstone of India's foreign policy is friendship with the Soviet Union based on trust and mutual understanding. Speaking at the banquet hosted in honor of the visiting deputy Soviet prime minister, Mr Kamentsev, in New Delhi last night, Mr Tiwari said Indo-Soviet relations have matured into a stable and resilient factor of contemporary international reality and have served the cause of peace in Asia and the world.

The minister said New Delhi and Moscow share common views on major international issues. He said Indo-Soviet economic cooperation has taken rapid strides, which constitutes a major landmark in the relations between the two countries. Mr Tiwari said India has welcomed the Soviet assistance for its development programs.

Committee To Investigate Commissions on Arms Deals

BK091634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] An inquiry committee has been appointed by the defense minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, to probe into the involvement of an Indian agent abroad who is alleged to be getting 30 crore rupees as commission in a defense deal. The armaments deal amounts to 430 crore rupees.

The inquiry committee will be headed by the defense secretary. It will report on the modus operandi of foreign and Indian agents and evaluate the security threat involved. It will also suggest measures to keep such agents at bay.

3 Killed in West Bengal Political Clashes

BK100435 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] In West Bengal, at least three persons have been killed and seven injured in a clash between supporters of two political parties in Charmondal village under Bagda police station in north 24 Pargana District. According to the police, the clash occurred following an altercation over the distribution of irrigation water.

Meanwhile, a 12-hour bundh [strike] was observed at Reeshra in Hooghly District yesterday in protest against the killing of loca

Congress-I municipal commissioner. The local bazaars and some factories were closed and buses were off the road.

India Will Not Compromise Nonalignment for U.S. Aid

BK091415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Commentary by economic commentator K.S. Ramamurti: "Politics of U.S. Aid"]

[Text] To those who have been following trends in U.S. policy since World War II, the decision of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to cut aid to India by nearly a third would not come as a surprise. Nehru coined a precise expression for the politics of aid. He called it aid with strings. U.S. aid was partly altruistic but a certain part of it always had strings attached.

U.S. expectations have been obvious. India as a fellow democracy should share U.S. perceptions in vital foreign policy matters. There have been nuances in style from regime to regime — from President Truman to Ronald Reagan — but the underlying expectation has remained steady. From Nehru to Mr Rajiv Gandhi all Indian prime ministers have been obliged to reiterate that India's policy of nonalignment did not mean antipathy to either of the two superpowers and that she wished to judge all policy issues on merits. During his first official visit to the United States in June 1985, Mr Rajiv Gandhi told the Press Club in Washington and we quote: We make decisions on principles that we hold dear. We are not going to be tied to the apron strings of any major power — unquote. Nehru had the same thing to say in different words during his first visit to the United States in 1949.

This background will help to place the decision of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the right perspective. The aid cut is meant as a signal to India that the U.S. Congress did not like the foreign policy pursued by this country. It is the same old policy of aid with strings. The difference is that the policy has now manifested itself somewhat unabashedly.

The decision to cut aid to India by 30 percent was accompanied significantly by a simultaneous decision to raise aid to Pakistan by 50 percent. This should be read in conjunction with reports that the U.S. proposes to give Pakistan over $4 billion in aid over the next 6 years. The Foreign Affairs Committee's proposal will now go to the U.S. House of Representatives, which is expected to support the decision. The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee is also expected to toe the line and would send, what is euphemistically called, a signal to India.

The significance of the aid cut decision is political rather than economic. There has been a steady decline in U.S. aid to India over the past 15 years. In the early 1970's U.S. development assistance was $170 million. By last year it had come down to $70 million. For the current fiscal year 1987 the aid allocation was $53 million. For the next fiscal year it is down to $35 millon.

It is strange that the cut should have taken place when actually there is a net transfer of resources from India to the U.S. over the last few years. Every year now India gives to U.S. much more in the form of repayment of past loans with interest than she gets by way of aid. In 1984-85, the net transfer to the U.S. was nearly $43 million. Debt service on past borrowing is likely to increase in the years ahead. This has been anticipated by India's financial administrators as the latest economic survey presented to parliament in February shows. They have fashioned economic policies for careful husbanding of external resources.

What is (?mightily) disturbing, therefore, about the latest U.S. aid cut is not the economic aspect but the political message. India too can say that she had conveyed her message over the last 40 years since Nehru's time. The message is that there can be no compromise with India's policy of nonalignment.

8 Killed, 40 Injured in Rawalpindi Blast 9 Apr

BK091718 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] A blast occurred at Kashmiri Bazaar in Rawalpindi this evening in which, according to a report, 8 persons were killed and nearly 40 injured. Condition of six injured is critical.

Rawalpindi deputy commissioner told Radio Pakistan correspondent that a correct assessment of the loss of life and property due to the blast is being made. The injured have been admitted to various hospitals of the city.

The blast occurred at about 1900 this evening. The blast was so severe that it shattered the window panes of the district headquarters hospital.

The causes of the explosion are being investigated. The authorities have appealed to people to donate blood for the wounded which can be made at any hospital in the city.

Junejo Condemns Blast

BK100257 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has expressed deep grief and anguish over the loss of life in the blast at Kashmiri Bazaar in Rawalpindi yesterday. He strongly condemned this dastardly act of terrorism resulting in the death of innocent people.

The prime minister said the provincial government will look after the affected families, and the injured will be given all possible medical help.

Punjab Governor Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi and Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif also expressed deep grief over this painful incident.

The chief minister has ordered an immediate inquiry to discover the cause of the blast and take necessary action. He announced that the families of those who died of the blast will be given 50,000 rupees and the injured will be given free medical treatment.

As already reported, 8 persons were killed and about 40 were injured, 6 of them critically, in the blast.

India Must Respond to Proposals on Arms Race

LK041618 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1605 GMT 3 Apr 87

[News commentary by Ahmad Hassan Sheikh]

[Text] The current debate on the new American aid package for Pakistan is helping to bring out Pakistan's constructive role in promoting the stability of this vital region. One fifth of the world's population lives in South Asia and if stable conditions can be ensured in it to enable its people to improve the quality of their lives, it would be a fitting contribution toward international stability and peace.

But this contribution can be brought about if the largest country of the region — namely India — too will parade in this direction. Unfortunately, her obsession to dominate and dictate to her neighbors has persuaded her to engage herself, in particular, in a [words indistinct] campaign against Pakistan. Although she made an atomic explosion as far back as 1974 and has since in pursuing her nuclear ambition unremittingly, she has been spreading all kinds of canards about Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program.

The latest salvo has been fired by no less a person than the prime minister of India who has talked of Pakistan's Islamic bomb landing in the hands of Arabs as if it was a cake Pakistan was preparing to present to them on a platter.

The motive obviously is to try to isolate Pakistan internationally to choke off the modest flow of arms from her friends for her legitimate defense needs.

The Indians, according to an American specialist on South Asia, are disappointed at the revival of Pakistan's military power and its internationally recognized diplomatic status. He told an Indian audience that Pakistan has more than survived the forcible partitition of 1971. He said Pakistan must be accepted as a major regional power. Its special security dilemma arises from the fact that it has as its neighbors the world's three largest countries, a fourth which is a revolutionary power, and a fifth under alien occupation.

The American assistant secretary of state, Mr Richard Murphy, was only articulating this reality on the ground when he described Pakistan as a close strategic friend of United States in its own right which is playing a critical role in opposing foreign aggression in the region.

The interest of the United States and Pakistan, as President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has pointed out, at present converge in this part of the world and a strong Pakistan would be able to stabilize the region.

The world opinion is at last beginning to see through the Indian propaganda which is busy (?enjoying) as much to malign Pakistan ignoring the danger posed by a typical penetration of a super-power into the region.

Pakistan, as pointed out by Mr Murphy, has made a number of proposals to India to head off a nuclear arms race. It is now for India either to respond to these proposals or to make her own counter-proposals. That would help establish its bonafides in promoting a climate of confidence, peace, and stability in the region.

SRI LANKA

Security Minister Announces Holiday Cease-Fire

BK100719 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0703 GMT 10 Apr 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 10 *(Lanka Puwath)* — National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali announced this morning at a press conference in Colombo that Sri Lankan Government had decided to declare a ceasefire commencing at 12 noon (1200 hours local time) Saturday (tomorrow April 11) till 6 am (0600 hours local time) on April 20.

He said the government had declared the ceasefire in order that the people would celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and Easter Sunday (April 19) and also for Good Friday religious observances by Sinhalese and Tamil Christians. He urged everybody else to follow suit and support the present peace efforts undertaken by the Government of India.

Diplomatic Relations With Venezuela Established

BK091320 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government and the Government of Venezuela have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of ambassadors with immediate effect.

Briefs

Drugs Arrests, Laws — More than half the arrests made by law enforcement agencies in Sri Lanka were for heroin offenses. Latest official statistics reveal that over 4,510 persons were arrested last year (1986) in Sri Lanka on heroin charges. The Narcotics Bureau chief [Donald Mendis] said a total of 8,123 persons had been arrested in Sri Lanka on drug charges. A person found guilty of possessing over two grams of heroin is liable to be sentenced to death, according to Sri Lanka's new drug laws. [Excerpts] *[Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0814 GMT 8 Apr 87 BK]*

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

LD101311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Simultaneous with the glorious operations carried out by Islam's combatants during the "Karbala'-8" and "Karbala'-9" offensives, our country's God-fearing people, by attending the Friday prayers venues, prayed today for the continued victories of the Islamic combatants. This religio-political ceremony was held in Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his prayer sermons on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Sadr, Tehran's Friday imam paid tribute to the crusading work carried out by this holy jurisconsult. He said: Ayatollah Sadr was not only a clergyman, but rather he constituted a hope for the future of Islam, particularly that of Iraq and its people. However one of the crimes perpetrated by the bloody Iraqi regime waas to martyr this unique personality of the Islamic world.

Referring to Ayatollah Sadr's emphatic statement to the Iraqi people -- You should dissolve yourselves in the very being of the dear imam of the Islamic nation, just as he has been dissolved in Islam -- the president said that the courage displayed by Ayatollah Sadr is worthy of praise, and we hope that the Iraqi mojahedin will follow his example and keep alive the memory of his struggle.

Continuing his speech, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the victories scored by Islam's combatants during the "Karbala'-8" and "Karbala'-9" offensives, emanating from the high morale of the Islamic combatants on the fronts. He said: These operations constitute a series of blows and attacks which our combatants will continue with the utmost vigor and might.

Describing the Karbala' offensives, Tehran's Friday imam said: Both fronts are of special sensitivity to the Iraqi regime. Last night Islam's combatants pushed back enemy forces from the highway west of Shalamcheh and occupied it.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: The war is not an ephemeral issue for us. For us it is a fundamental issue if related to the goals and aspirations of the revolution, which are tantamount to confronting world arrogance.

Rejecting the words of Islam's enemies and rejecting various theories about the Iran-Iraq war, Tehran's Friday imam said: The issues of Persians and Arabs does not arise, and their aim is not to grab territory. We do not advise any country to adopt a spirit of aggression and offence, especially against Islamic and revolutionary Iran. Remarks by certain Arab leaders emanate from their not having deeply pondered the aims and mottos of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, it follows that for as long as the Saddam Husayn regime is in power in Iraq, this war most certainly will not come to an end.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i also referred to the U.S. uproar about strengthening its forces in the Persian Gulf. He said: This uproar is aimed at reassuring reactionary Arab, North African, and Persian Gulf governments. On the other hand, as Reagan nears the end of his term in office as U.S. President, U.S. leaders wish to recoup their loss of face vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran. Neither the United States nor the USSR can safeguard Persian Gulf security. Inviting them to the Persian Gulf can only be seen as humiliation.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: Should the United States begin any moves against the Islamic Republic of Iran in this region, it will taste a defeat that will leave it unable to stand up anywhere in the world. We will administer an appropriate rebuff to anyone, from any quarter, who may entertain aggression against us.

Inviting the governments of the Persian Gulf region to provide security for commerce and shipping, the president of the republic stated: This is not just an invitation to these powers in connection with Persian Gulf security, as they themselves will render it even more insecure. The Islamic world and the whole world know the Islamic Republic will not be intimidated by such issues, because our path is one of independence. This aim is commended by all noble-minded people throughout the world.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i also referred to an issue concerning health, saying: We call on all families, particularly mothers, to carry out their duties by supporting vaccination and immunization of children.

Foreign Minister Addresses Disarmament Conference

LD092100 Tehran IRNA in English 1901 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Geneva, April 9, IRNA — "More than ever in the history of mankind, arms race with an unprecedented speed has imperiled their very existence," said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday.

Addressing the 40-nation Geneva conference on disarmament, the Iranian foreign minister outlined the dangers threatening world peace and security, including nuclear stockpiling, use of chemical weapons and presence of foreign bases and navies in regional waters.

Citing the saturation point reached in both conventional and nuclear arsenals, Velayati said "even a minor error could ignite such an unextinguishable fire."

He questioned international silence towards uncontrolled and unpredictable arms trend asking "how long can the whole world live up with the nightmare of a nuclear holocaust."

Certain states are creating serious obstacles in the works of the disarmament body, remarked Velayati, noting that most developing countries are sacrificing their people's bread in order to provide the expenses for the deadly weapons.

Velayati said that though the threat of a nuclear war looms large, whereas it is the conventional force which "as the main devil has shed the blood of innumerable human beings during the last decades." [sentence as received]

He regretted the inability of the present international set-up in providing even a modest protection for developing countries against the increasing use of force on a world scale and emphasized "the imposed war by Iraq against my country which has entered its seventh year now is a vivid example of such a practice."

Calling for the dismantling of all foreign military bases and an end to their naval presence in the Persian Gulf, Velayati blamed the unjustified interference of alien forces as the "main cause of regional tensions."

Elsewhere, in his speech, the Iranian foreign minister exposed the ineffectiveness of the U.N. concerning the Iraqi-imposed war, saying "the provisions of the U.N. Charter have not been able even to have some mitigatory effect." Commercial navigation and civil aviation have also not been spared from systematic military attacks in spite of the so-called international legal barriers, he noted.

On the issue of chemical weapons Velayati, terming it as the most important item on the agenda, and referring to the destruction wrought by the Iraqi regime's frequent use of these banned deadly toxics, asserted that Iran is the most eligible member of the international community in assessing the inhuman and devastating effects of the use of such weapons.

Pointing to the numerous technical and medical reports of the U.N. expert teams to Iran available on this subject, Velayati called for an urgent ban on the use of chemical weapons.

Deploring the intensified deployment of chemical arms by the Iraqi regime, Velayati said that the Security Council's belated condemnation on March 26, 1986 not only proved ineffective but has also revealed the weakness of the 1925 Geneva protocol.

"I would like to bring to your attention that the last chemical weapons were used (by Iraqis against Iran) on March 19, 1987," said Velayati.

While the Iranian foreign minister was addressing the Geneva conference the Irai regime lent proof to his words by resorting to this dastardly act again at the war fronts, east of Basra.

Velayati praised the countries, which have banned the export of such materials to Iraq which could possibly be used in the manufacture of chemical arms.

He also expressed appreciation for the efforts of those states which have shown concern over the continuation and use of the chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime.

The Iranian foreign minister thanked them for convening international educative gatherings and enhancing public awareness about the perils of these arms.

Later the Iranian foreign minister also outlined the dangers of an arms race in outer space, saying that they imperil the sovereignty of those countries which do not possess these capabilities. The spy satellites have provided their owners with possibilities which can easily trample the rights of other countries, he remarked.

At the end of his address Velayati presented a table of chronology to the conference's president concerning the use of chemical weapons by Iraq.

Musavi Briefs Envoy to Libya on Assignment

LD091442 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Tripoli Mohammad-Kazem Khonsari met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Thursday and briefed him on the country of his assignment. The premier provided the Iranian envoy with necessary guidelines concerning Iran-Libya relations and for countering plots hatched by U.S. imperialism.

Further Reportage on Visit of Ghanaian Minister

Joint Communique Issued

LD091058 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — A joint Iran-Ghana communique was issued Thursday at the end of the three-day visit of the Ghanaian Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah, to Tehran in which Iraqi attack on Iranian residential areas were strongly condemned.

The communique issued simultaneously in Tehran and Accra, further deplored Iraqi use of chemical arms and its attacks on commercial shipping and passenger planes.

The communique also emphasised respect for the independence and territorial integrity of countries. It furthermore condemned aggression against countries including the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran. It also described the just defense of Iran in the imposed-war as a means to regain its rights.

The communique further condemned U.S. threats and aggression against the independence of freedom loving countries of the Third World and also maneuvers of the U.S. Fleet in Persian Gulf waters and the Mediterranean.

Iran and Ghana stressed importance of mutual cooperation in the international scene and described exchange visits as useful mean for strengthening the ranks of the oppressed nations against the world oppressors.

The two countries also deplored crimes of the Zionist regime, the military occupation of Afghanistan, British support for the racist South African regime and also aggression of the Moroccan regime against the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

Both countries expressed concern over the situation in Chad and called for withdrawal of foreign forces and implementation of the approvals of the Organization of African Unity and the right to self-determination of the people of Chad.

IRGC Minister Comments on Future Dispatch of Troops

LD090954 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Yazd, April 8, IRNA — Some 1,500 combat battalions from throughout the country will be dispatched to the war fronts this year, said Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust here Tuesday.

The IRGC minister, in an interview with the Central News Bureau (CNB) warned that "if the enemy resumes attacking residential areas, four missiles will be fired at Baghdad, instead of one, in retaliation."

Once the plan for despatching 1,500 battalions to the war fronts is implemented by the IRGC, Iran's fire-power will increase to 12 million rounds of shells annually from 6 million last year, the CNB quoted Rafiqdust as saying.

Military equipment and ammunition needed for continuation of a victorious 50-year period will be manufactured by two major plants to become operational within the next one or two years, he said.

The IRGC minister was also quoted as saying that in addition to the state-owned ammunition plant, 12,000 private workshops are manufacturing war-related equipment.

The Iranian people are determined to continue their sacred defensive war and deal their fatal blows, one after the other, on the enemy until the elimination of the aggressor Saddam Husayn, Rafiqdust said, adding "Iran will certainly achieve the final victory over Iraq," he added. [sentence as received]

3 Battalions Depart for Fronts

NC100630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Bakhtaran that, at the same time as the combatants of Islam are engaged in victorious operations, and in continuation of the practice of dispatching fresh, popular forces to the fronts of the war of good against evil, three battalions of popular forces codenamed the extraordinary Nowruz convoy left from Sonqor and Dkola'i yesterday, chanting "War, war until victory" and "Death to America," to fight the Zionist enemy.

IRGC Commander Interviewed on 'Karbala'-8' Success

NC100601 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Mr Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] spoke to our correspondent yesterday over the telephone. He extended his congratulations to the imam of the ummah and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and to the heroic and brave Iranian nation on the recent victories achieved by the combatants of Islam in the "Karbala'-8" operations and called on our country's combatant youth to participate fully in the great dispatch of the Sahib al-Zaman Corps, in order to take part in furthering our victories.

He added: The combatants of Islam have upset the enemy's rest on the battlefronts. Just when the enemy's full alert was terminated and leaves were resumed, the Islamic combatants attacked and killed a large number of Iraqi commanders who had returned to the frontline in a confused condition. On one line of the front alone, seven Iraqi colonels were captured or killed by the combatants of Islam.

The IRGC commander stressed at the end of this telephone conversation that we must pursue the enemy and score even more successes in order to achieve victory.

IRGC Officer Claims Iraqi Forces 'Badly Beaten'

LD091447 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — The world should be aware of the fact that the badly beaten Iraqi forces lack the defence power and the Baghdad government is no longer able to maintain itself in power, said a ranking Iranian military commander in the Karbala'-8 operational theater Thursday.

A commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), said that eight Iraqi brigades suffered substantial damage and several ranking Iraqi commanders were killed in the latest Iranian attack on enemy positions east of Basra Tuesday night and early Wednesday.

Iranian forces are continuing their battle in the Karbala'-8 theater to rout remaining Iraqi troops and will never give any opportunity to the enemy to flee the battlefield, he said. He also called on Iraqi troops in the theater to surrender to Muslim forces of Iran in order not to be killed.

The enemy is well aware that Iran's Muslim combatants are quite able to infiltrate Iraqi positions in any point in Iraqi territory, said the commander. He cited the take-over of new positions in Hajj 'Umran and in the southern fronts by Iranian Muslim combatants as an example.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

'Vast' Territory Retaken

LD091540 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran liberated vast parts of Iranian territory including the 'Baba Hadi' border outpost, under Iraqi occupation since 1980, in their latest operations, Karbala'-9, launched northeast of Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, early Thursday.

Announcing the above, Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters said that the Iranian flag was again hoisted over the Baba Hadi outpost Thursday, which had been under Iraqi occupation since the early days of the Ba'thist aggression.

Several strategic heights were purged of enemy troops in the Qasr-e Shirin-Pol-e Zahab axis. These include Baba Hadi, and heights nos. 542, 415 and 400. The Muslim forces also liberated 18 sq. kms of the occupied territory.

The number of Iraqi casualties has so far reached 520 while several others were captured, 35 of whom have been transferred behind the lines. 37 enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers, two artillery pads as well as several munitions dumps were destroyed in this blitz, said Khatem ol-Anbiya'.

The Iranian defenders have also seized intact a large amount of war spoils, such as various types of mortar launchers, batteries and a great quantity of munitions.

Iraqis 'Smashed' on Western Front
LD091610 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — Six heavy Iraqi counter-offensives in the Karbala'-9 operational theater, northeast of Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, were smashed by Iranian Muslim combatants Thursday.

Attacking Iraqi troops suffered heavy casualties and were forced to retreat in the aborted counter-attacks. A large amount of Iraqi military equipment was also seized intact and instantly deployed against the enemy by the Iranian combatants.

The battles are continuing in the Karbala'-9 war theater with the Iranian forces holding the upper hand.

Iraqis 'Crushed' Near Basra
LD091656 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 09 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, April 9, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed a heavy Iraqi counter-attack in the Karbala'-8 operational theater east of Basra Thursday, killing or wounding 700 more Iraqi soldiers and capturing 36 others, among them 19 officers and NCO's.

The remaining Iraqi troops were forced to retreat after their counter-assault, launched by Brigade 104 and an armoured battalion of Brigade 26 of the Fifth Division was totally crushed.

Iraqi Sukhoy-22 Downed
LD091700 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 09 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — A Soviet-made Sukhoy-22 warplane of the Iraqi Army was shot down by the Air Defence fire of Iran's Muslim forces over the Karbala'-8 theatre Thursday.

Announcing the above today, Khatem ol-Anbiya' military headquarters added that pilot of the downed plane was also captured by the Iranian defenders.

The number of Iraqi warplanes downed since the start of the victorious Karbala'-8 operations east of Basra, early Tuesday, has now reached four.

Communique No 2,801
LD091707 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy losses in men and equipment throughout the fronts Wednesday in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants, said a military communique here Thursday.

Communique Number 2801, released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran'r Armed Forces, added that Iranian Gendarmerie Forces killed a number of Iraqi soldiers, destroying at least 10 enemy gun emplacements in parts of the southern and western fronts Wednesday.

An Iraqi patrol convoy was smashed and forced to flee in a southern front yesterday by artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi troops in the southern and western fronts Wednesday inflicted substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Several Iraqi vehicle columns and tank units were hit and sustained heavy losses in Nahr 'Anbar and Chazabeh, southern fronts, Wednesday.

Iranian defenders also checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Pich-e Angizeh and Zobeydah, southern fronts, Wednesday, the communique concluded.

Fighters Bomb Iraqi Positions
LD091726 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 9, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained substantial casualties and damage when Iranian jetfighters heavily bombed their positions, fortifications and armoured units for 100 minutes in Karbala'-8 operational region, east of Basra, Thursday. All attacking planes returned safely to their base after inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy.

The bombardment coincided with attempted Iraqi counterattack in the region, which was severely smashed and the enemy sustained heavy casualties and damage. Columns of smoke rose into the air as a result of destruction of Iraqi positions and equipment by the bombardment.

Meanwhile, Iraqi commander of Battalion 2 of Brigade 29 Colonel Zaki Muhammad 'Aziz was killed during the enemy's counterassaults, which were smashed in the Karbala'-8 operational region. Deputy Commander of Battalion 1 of Iraqi Brigade 29 Captain Ahmad Jasim Salim is among POWs captured in the theatre.

Communique on 'Karbala'-9'
LD091734 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA — At least 800 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and more than 20 square kms of Iranian

territory, including the 'Baba Hadi' border outpost and the strategic Heights 542, 410, 400 and 415, were liberated in the Iranian Karbala'-9 operations, launched in the western fronts before dawn Thursday.

Announcing the above in a communique this evening, Khatem ol-Anbiya', the joint Army-IRGC Headquarters, added that scores of other Iraqi soldiers were captured in the latest Iranian thrust. Some 50 POW's, captured during the assault, have so far been transferred to safe place behind the lines.

The liberated areas and 'Baba Hadi' border outpost were under Iraqi occupation since the start of enemy aggression on Iran in 1980.

Forty-five Iraqi tanks and armoured personnel carriers, several munitions dumps and four artillery pads were set ablaze in the operations, code-named 'Ya Mahdi (AS) Adrekni' [O Mahdi, Come To My Assistance].

A large amount of enemy equipment, including mortar launchers, machine guns, and other weapons and ammunitions, were seized intact and instantly deployed against Iraqi forces by the Iranian combatants in the war theater.

The badly beaten Iraqi forces have so far launched seven heavy counter-offensives in the Karbala'-9 operational region, but failed each time and were forced to retreat while sustaining considerable losses in men and equipment.

The 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions of Commando Brigade of the 2nd Iraqi Corps were damaged by as much as 80 percent at the early hours of the Iranian blitz.

Iran's Muslim combatants, holding the upper hand, are continuing their battles in the Karbala'-9 operational theater, the communique concluded.

3 More Iraqi Planes Downed

LD100229 Tehran IRNA in English 0225 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Karbala'-8 Operational Theater, April 10, IRNA — Three more Iraqi warplanes attempting to bombard Iranian positions, were shot down in this operational region Thursday. These bring to seven the number of enemy planes shot down since the operation started (?east of) Basra early Tuesday.

Iraqi Losses Total 8,300

LD101106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] According to a report of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], Islam's mighty combatants, continuing "Karbala'-8" operations, dealt further heavy blows to the Iraqi Zionist, Ba'thist regime last night.

Assaulting the positions of the Zionist enemy, the monotheistic troops in a heavy battle succeeded in fully occupying one of the region's important strategic motorways, known as Ta'awun. During the operations launched last night by monotheistic troops two commando battalions of the Iraqi Muhammad al-Qasim Division were completely destroyed, and more than 500 field rangers of the Iraqi regime's army, who had recently arrived in the operational sector, were killed, thereby bringing the number of killed and wounded soldiers of the Zionist enemy since the beginning of "Karbala'-8" operations to 8,300. Also, dozens of advanced tanks and armored personnel carriers of the Zionist enemy were either destroyed or captured intact by the antiarmor units of the IRGC.

The fast-flying pilots of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the IRI, flying their fighter-bombers at 0650, 0855, 0908, and 1130 this morning, bombed the positions and fortifications of the Zionist enemy and, after inflicting heavy losses, returned safely to base.

Khorramshahr 'Chemically Bombed'

LD101131 Tehran IRNA in English 1118 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 10, IRNA — Residential quarters of the city of Khorramshahr were chemically bombed by intruding Iraqi warplanes in two sorties Friday.

Following heavy defeats of the Iraqi infantry and mechanized units west of the Fish Lake during Karbala'-8 offensive launched early Tuesday, the Ba'thist regime bombed residential areas of Khorramshahr. Anti-chemical units of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) however, neutralised the deadly effects of the toxic substances.

Iraqi Warplanes 'Forced To Flee'

LD101112 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — Four Iraqi war planes intruded the air space of Persian Gulf to bomb the country's economic installations at 09:46 hours local time (06:16 hours GMT) Friday morning. The Iraqi warplanes were forced to flee before carrying out any actions.

Iraqi Bases Near Basra Bombed

LD101239 Tehran IRNA in English 1136 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 10, IRNA — Several Iranian jet fighters bombarded enemy troop centers as well as its logistic and tactical bases east of Basra Friday. According to the report at least three enemy command bases east of Basra were destroyed.

The Iranian warplanes returned to bases safely after successfully carrying out their mission.

VII.	WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII.	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

Subscribers who wish to change their subscriptions should notify FBIS or NTIS by 1 May 1987 to ensure correct dissemination. Full subscription information is available on the DAILY REPORT back cover.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration by FBIS are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard, received, or published but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced. . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says. . . ."

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The FBIS Daily Report is published Monday through Friday in 8 volumes: I – China, II – Eastern Europe, III – Soviet Union, IV – Asia and Pacific, V – Middle East and Africa, VI – Latin America, VII – Western Europe, and VIII – South Asia.

U.S. Government officials may obtain subscriptions to the Daily Reports at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. DOD consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 692-5753, Autovon: 222-5753.) For additional information or assistance call FBIS, (703) 527-2368, or write P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013.

The public may subscribe to either a hardcover or microfiche version of the Daily Report through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) of the Department of Commerce (5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161).

The annual subscription fee for the hardcover version within the United States, Canada, and Mexico is $290 for any one volume, $380 for two volumes, $450 for three, $540 for four, $625 for five, $715 for six, $800 for seven, and $890 for all eight volumes. This includes the occasional supplements to the Daily Report.

In microfiche (prepared weekly) the fee is $125 for any one volume, $155 for two volumes, $185 for three, $230 for four, $285 for five, $340 for six, $395 for seven, and $450 for all eight volumes. Foreign subscriptions outside North America are available from appointed foreign dealers or from NTIS.

Back issues or single copies of the Daily Reports are not available. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue of the Daily Report. Holders of subscriptions through NTIS should forward all inquiries, remittances, or changes in subscriber information to NTIS at the address listed in paragraph 3 or call: (703) 487-4630.

The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the Daily Report, may be ordered in single copies or by subscription from NTIS. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date, and author if applicable.

Both the Daily Report and JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.